



## REMARKS

### The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 over Heckmeier

The rejections of claims 1-2, 4-8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102, as being anticipated, or under 35 U.S.C. §103, as being obvious, over Heckmeier (U.S. Pub. Nos. 2003/0234384, 2004/0112275, and 2005/0040365) are respectfully traversed. The pertinent issue connected with these publications is the same and thus they will be addressed together.

The US filing/102(e) dates of the Heckmeier publications are all after applicants' claimed foreign priority date. A certified copy of the priority document was received from the International Bureau, as noted in the Office Action. Applicants submit herewith a verified translation of the priority document for the purpose of the PTO verifying that it supports the current claims. Assuming such support, the Heckmeier references will be removed from the prior art. An INPADOC search revealed no publications of applications in the Heckmeier family prior to applicants' claimed foreign priority date.

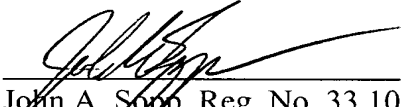
Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 over the Heckmeier publications should be withdrawn.

### The Obviousness-type Double Patenting Rejections

The obviousness-type double patenting rejections of claims 1-2, 4-8, 10 and 12 over each of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,902,777, 7,056,561 and 7,175,891 (the latter recently issued from Application No. 10/673,909) are overcome by the terminal disclaimer filed herewith.

It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. However, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John A. Sopp, Reg. No. 33,103  
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO  
& BRANIGAN, P.C.  
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400  
2200 Clarendon Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
Telephone: (703) 243-6333  
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-3018.  
Date: May 7, 2007

JAS:cak